

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Approved Minutes
May 5, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
High School Auditorium/Zoom

Present Board Members: Mark Fiorentino (via Zoom), Melissa Migliaccio, David Peling, Sarah Thrall, Rosemarie Weber, and Jacob Scotto (via Zoom) and Jack DeGray (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Brandon Webster and Jenny Emery

Sarah Thrall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Administrative Reports

I.A. Chairman's Corner

Ms. Sarah Thrall, Board Chair, stated this is teacher and staff appreciation week and the Board is so grateful for all of the time, energy, effort, thought, and commitment put into this year. It is truly remarkable so thank you for all you do all year round for our students.

I.B. Superintendent's Announcements

- Dr. Grossman welcomed high school administration who will present their school improvement plan.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is this week and Cake Gypsy cupcakes were sent on behalf of the Board and Central Services to the staff who were very appreciative.
- Last week the BOE budget was approved by the town-wide vote.
- Informed by the State Department of Education that remote learning will not be mandated in the 2021-2022 school year. All families were notified of this last week and the message will be repeated this week.
- The district wellness program, Ball Parks of America Walking Challenge through Anthem, has been a success with 165 participants and will run from May 1st through May 31st.
- SBAC testing going well this week with 4th and 5th grade complete; 3rd grade and 6th grade testing this week; 8th grade testing next week; and, 5th grade NGSS testing next week as well.
- High school students are taking their AP tests this week and will run through May 14th.
- Meeting yesterday to continue discussion regarding food service – will continue the conversation to see if East Granby wants to partner with us next year. The federal government announced that lunch will be free to students next school year.
- Met with the high school administration regarding providing breakfast to high school students next year.
- Collaborative effort through St. Joseph's college for high school students who are aspiring to be teachers on May 13th. The vice provost will join in a virtual online program next week.
- Held meetings with Mr. Wry and the Director of Facilities and we will be doing 8th grade promotion ceremony outside in person this year and will determine exactly where this will be held.
- SEPTO meeting on Monday, May 10th. Angela Ehrenwerth is one of the featured speakers that evening.
- A reminder that Dr. Grossman will be speaking at the Memorial Day Parade. Board members are invited to join him in walking in the parade and a first grade class will also be walking the parade route as well.
- Next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on May 19th.
- Last year we were not able to recognize our retirees and 25-year employees; however, this year the event will be held on June 2nd at 12:45 under the tents at the middle. All Board members are invited.

I.C. Assistant Superintendent's Report

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, provided an update on K-12 Math Progression and reviewed where we are with Math programming and the direction in which the district will move. The current Eureka math program is up for review this year and is not meeting the standards needed for instruction. A chart showing the last three years of data was reviewed. Overall the district trended at 62% over the past three years of students scoring in the proficient range on the SBAC and anywhere from 57-70% in the SAT. The district is getting preliminary data on school day SATs which will be brought to the Board at a later date. Ms. Parsons stated it was hoped to see growth and progression over the last three years. The current model is that 95-99% of students stay on the grade level track and 1-5% of students accelerate through and track one year ahead in math; however, a majority same course in K through Grade 7 and in Grade 8 split between Algebra 1 and Algebra 1A. This is still based on the Algebra for all approach and 100% of students complete Algebra by the end of 9th grade. Research was conducted for the best model moving forward. Dawn Olsen, Math Coach, spoke with 13 districts and most districts begin an accelerated pathway in Grade 6 or 7. A majority of districts have 25-40% of students in Algebra in 9th grade. Research showed that readiness should drive course access. Ms. Parsons stated no other districts use Eureka Math. She informed the Board that Granby needs to realign middle school math progression; utilize Illustrative Math in Grades 6-8 starting next school year; and continue

standards forward curriculum development and resource exploration. Ms. Parsons stated PSATs will be given in Grades 8-11 next year and that data will be carefully monitored and gathered. The proposed model for the middle school is to continue to use the talented and gifted identification model. This model will also have 100% of students completing Algebra by the end of 9th Grade. Students who are ready can accelerate in Grade 6 and study three grades of standards over 2 years. The resource the Curriculum Subcommittee looked at seriously was Illustrative Math. All materials are available on-line, are highly rated and grounded in best practices and certified trainers are provided. Ms. Parsons thanked the Subcommittee for their support and for asking critical questions. Rosemarie Weber stated extra meetings were needed to dissect what this would mean for our math curriculum. She stated Ms. Parsons answered the Subcommittees many questions. David Peling inquired what the plans are for K-5 and Ms. Parsons stated the district will be able to do some cross training on elements to try out some of the Illustrative Math. Sarah Thrall thanked the Subcommittee for adding an extra meeting to get a full understanding and she also thanked Ms. Parsons and the Math Coaches for their work in reaching out to other districts. She stated she appreciates the professional development for the program and the importance for teachers. Mark Fiorentino inquired if the new model has any measurable impact on student achievement goals. Ms. Parsons stated the current model of pushing students into content does not give them the time they need to absorb and show proficiency but she is hopeful every student will be supported along the way with a stronger foundation and higher mastery level. Melissa Migliaccio stated Eureka Math is not working and she understands the open source concept of Illustrative Math but inquired why is it free if it is such a great resource. Ms. Parsons stated that it is supported by a variety of foundations and that it has been picked up by three different publishing companies in terms of creating manuals, etc. The core content is completely free; however, there will be a fee if we decide to package in a certain way.

I.D. Student Representative Reports

- Jacob Scotto reported the high school band concert will be held on Thursday, May 20th with the possibility of it also being a livestreamed event.
- There will be a live chorus concert at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 27th in front of the high school.
- The boys' tennis team is currently 6-2 with another match home tomorrow against Northwestern. The girls' tennis team is currently 4-4 and their next match is on Friday against Suffield.
- Jack reported the much anticipated Spring Coffeehouse was great success with over 200 people streaming the concert on YouTube.
- The boys' lacrosse team is 2-5; girls' lacrosse is 2-3; baseball is 2-7; and, the softball team is undefeated at 11-0 only allowing 6 runs this year.
- Congratulations to Sean Dowd who won the Avon invitational golf tournament and is ranked 6th amongst golfers at public schools.

Melissa Migliaccio noted that the boys' and girls' lax are not playing in their regular conference and playing in CCC. She wished them well as they compete. She also stated that she and her family sat around the fire and listened to the Coffeehouse and said it was amazing.

II. Public Comment

There were no public comments this evening.

III. Consent Agenda

III.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by Melissa Migliaccio that the Granby Board of Education adopt the consent agenda. This motion passed with one abstention (Mark Fiorentino) at 7:45 p.m.

IV. Old Business

IV.A. School Improvement Plan Update: Granby Memorial High School

Mr. Michael Dunn, High School Principal, provided an update to the Board on the 2020-2021 School Improvement Plan for Granby Memorial High School. Mr. Dunn reviewed the *Vision, Mission and District Achievement Goal* to continue to improve systems and practices to maximize equitable opportunities for all students by continuing to benefit from the partnership with the CT Center for School Change engaging in challenging conversations; GMHS Equity Network, Equity Book Club discussions; infusing an equity lens into all work; increasing enrollment in college level courses and enrollment on non-white students; and, working with the University of St. Joseph to encourage aspiring educators. For the *Student Achievement Goal* to increase the percentage of juniors meeting benchmark between fall 2020 PSAT and spring 2021 CT SAT, Mr. Dunn stated performance of high school students improved. For the *Instructional Goal* to refine the use of formative assessments of clear learning targets to adjust instruction, including through an online platform by significantly increasing staff capacity to engage students in

effective online instruction, the high school is integrating online and in-person learning; embedding learning targets and practice aligned to PSAT/SAT; completing the NEAS&C two-year update report; beginning discussions around improving consistency in grading practices; and, significantly increasing collaborative common planning time for teachers next year. Mr. Dunn stated in looking forward for the high school, the goal is to take time to integrate what was learned from this year and integrating the best practices, strategies and resources going forward; and, promoting individualized practice through Khan Academy and AP Boot Camp.

V. New Business

V.A. Granby Education Foundation (GEF): Proposed GMHS News Studio

Ms. Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent, along with high school teacher, Mr. Nicholas Gaeta, presented a proposed GMHS News Studio through a grant by the GEF. Ms. Parsons stated the district would like to work with students currently exhibiting interest at the middle and high school level to start a news club. She stated there are already several courses that have connection and can utilize a news studio (Journalism, Reel History, Electronic Music Composition, Film as Test, Mass Media, Sports and Entertainment Marketing; and Principles of Speech and Communication). Additionally, the video and production space can also be used for drama, concerts, sports, coffeehouses, studio projects, and showcases as well as a lot of internal uses for students but to also have the community submit proposals for its use. Mr. Gaeta stated the room the studio would be housed may need to be expanded. A news desk would be built by construction technology students. There would be dedicated editing computers: 10 computers to support the class and the club. He stated the studio equipment is where a lot of the money would be spent and that the focus would be on getting equipment that can be expanded with ease and at low cost. The projected overall cost is a little over \$100K. Ms. Parsons stated staff will continue to need to develop their own skills and knowledge which cannot be included in the grant and she anticipates Granby is currently well staffed to run this program. She stated as career connections and pathways are looked at, the district will work on a feeder pathway from middle to high school as well as make connections through field trips and exposure to careers related to video broadcasting. Sarah Thrall inquired how much work would need to be done to align the middle school. Ms. Parsons stated additional equipment is included to transition to the middle school as well and will also look at technology curriculum. She stated some equipment could be purchased through a capital expense. Rosemarie Weber inquired about the professional development and staffing piece. Dr. Grossman stated anticipation of staffing would be several years out and with regard to training, staff can probably go to other high schools to receive some training so this will not be a huge cost. Melissa Migliaccio inquired if the GEF would fund this if it has Board support. Dr. Grossman stated he is not positive they will fund it but would not bring it to the Board if he did not feel it is something they are considering. Sarah Thrall reminded the Board that the GEF has given the district many program in the Arts, Strings, the Ecology Center, etc.

V.B. Healthy Foods Certification Approval

The Board considered the approval of the 2021-2022 Healthy Food Certification. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by Rosemarie Weber that the Granby Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources including, but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. This motion passed unanimously at 8:27 p.m.

V.C. Healthy Food Certification - Exemption of Food and Beverages

The Board considered the approval of the Healthy Food Certification Exemption of Food and Beverages. A motion was made by Melissa Migliaccio and seconded by David Peling that the Granby Board of Education allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held. This motion passed unanimously at 8:29 p.m.

V.D. Superintendent's Annual Report

Dr. Jordan Grossman presented his Annual Report for the 2020-2021 school year to the Board and stated he is amazed and humbled by the work done this past year by the Granby school community and that Granby is one of the only schools who opened for full, in-person learning this year. Dr. Grossman reviewed the goals and some highlights under each goal as follows: *Student Learning and Achievement*: Organization of SEPTO; new Director of Pupil Personnel Services; new Middle School Schedule, and, Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Project partner school. *Community Engagement*: Strategic plan to be released in the fall of 2021; Vision of a Graduate plan to be shared with the Board at the Summer Retreat; community support continues to grow and prosper; and celebration of student and staff accomplishments, especially the Class of 2021. *Safety and Social Emotional Well-Being*: Granby was one of the few districts in the State of Connecticut to open and remain open full in-person learning for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year; and, a more updated and refined Emergency Operations Plan. *Budget Development and Fiscal Management*: Worked with the Business Manager to secure over \$830K of grant funds; managed budget with rising special education costs and unexpected pandemic expenditures; successful adoption of 3.56% budget increase; worked with Building Committee to develop and improve educational specifications; successfully implemented a new food service provider, Fresh Picks, and collaborated with East Granby Public Schools to offer their school district a food service program. *Embracing Diversity*: Developed an Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism Plan; in process of selecting a teacher for the CREC Teacher In-Service Program; partnership formed with the University of St. Joseph for a current Granby Public School student interested in teaching. *Professional Learning*: Successfully on-boarded a new Assistant Superintendent, Middle School Principal, Middle School Assistant Principal, Kelly Lane Principal, and Director of Pupil Services; CAPSS Early Career Advanced Leadership Program; and State of CT Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity. Sarah Thrall thanked Dr. Grossman and stated it is beyond remarkable the work that was accomplished this year.

VI. Miscellaneous

VI.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VI.A.1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

Rosemarie Weber stated this Subcommittee met this evening to discuss happenings in the district; summer school planning; COVID vaccine clinic scheduled for high school students; administration met with the Granby Reconciliation Team; two applicants selected for mentors for the teacher in residence program; professional development work on instructional frameworks; and testing. Also discussed World Language and how the middle school schedule will impact this. There were no policy updates; however, the graduation requirements will be looked at in Subcommittee. The District Leadership Team is meeting on May 19th and a member of the Curriculum Subcommittee will attend. World Language, Math, and Social Studies curriculum writing across all grade levels will be conducted. Spoke briefly about the GEF grant tonight's presentation.

VI.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VI.B.1. CREC/CABE

Sarah Thrall stated the Board will apply for the Level Two CABE Board Recognition Award which recognizes effective Boards of Education. The Board has received this award since 2001.

VI.B.2. Granby Education Foundation

Nothing to report.

VI.C. Calendar of Events

Sarah Thrall stated there are a lot of activities happening for the end of the year.

VI.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no Board member announcements this evening.

VI.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

VII. Executive Session/Non-Meeting

A motion was made by Rosemarie Weber and seconded by David Peling to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. This motion passed unanimously at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Weber
Board Secretary